

pilosebaceous unit, should make it particularly beneficial in the treatment of acne.

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BOOK REVIEW

Basics of Dermatology, A Colour Atlas. By Heide-Marie Heinz. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, New York, 1988 (323 pp., \$64.00).

Superb illustrations are the highlight of this excellent atlas. The author presents this atlas as a guide for the general practitioner, and acknowledges this text as restricted to presenting the basics of dermatology. The atlas begins with descriptions and illustrations of primary and secondary lesions, then proceeds with color illustrations and brief summaries of dermatologic conditions, grouped in standard categories.

The large, color illustrations are of the highest quality, well composed and generally very representative of the condition depicted. The brief discussions which accompany the illustrations list clinical findings, symptomatology when appropriate, and therapeutic approaches to each dermatologic problem.

General practitioners may find the terminology a bit different from that in standard U.S. dermatology texts; for example, in describing Bourneville-Pringle disease, the term tuberous sclerosis is not used. However, such examples are few, and do not detract from the usefulness of this atlas. On occasion, the treatment discussed is

somewhat controversial, or varies from that recommended in standard U.S. dermatologic texts. For example, soft x-ray treatment is listed as an option for the treatment of lentigo maligna, and a trial of autovaccine is suggested for furunculosis. In discussing eczema herpeticum, acyclovir therapy is not mentioned, and topical nitrogen mustard is not listed as a treatment of mycosis fungoides. Because an atlas is generally not used as a reference for determining therapy, these differences should not discourage a general practitioner from using this text. The final chapter discusses andrology, a subject generally not included in U.S. dermatologic texts, a reminder that the scope of dermatologic practice in Germany is a bit broader than that in the U.S.

In summary, this text successfully achieves all expectations of a basic atlas, with excellent, very representative illustrations, and succinct discussions of each dermatologic disease. I believe it will be useful to general practitioners, and to students beginning the study of dermatology.

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